

Fearful Catastrophe If Mile-High Edifice Is Built

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Famous Expert Tells Why Magnates Must Not Construct Dizzy Skyscrapers.

He Warns Them Against Hitherto Untold Perils—Gives Scientific Reasons for Assertions and Relates Actual Incidents to Bear Out His Statements on Especially Timely Topic.



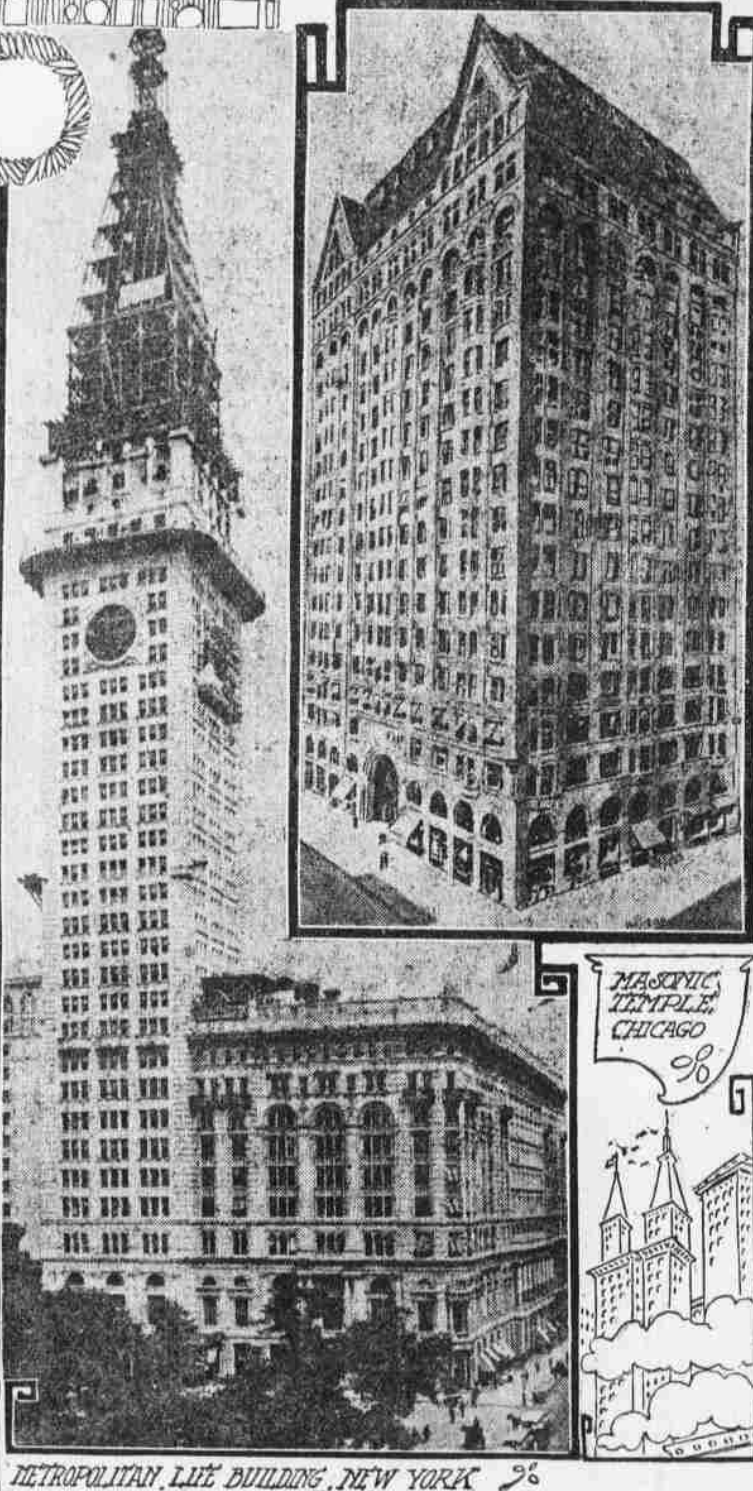
BUILDING a mile high! That was the recent prediction of New York contractors when figuring out possibilities for the reconstruction of building operations next spring.

But our geologist friends say no. They declare that if such a structure should be raised over the fragile strata of rock upon which the city is built the whole would give way to the strain and a catastrophe would result.

Therefore measures have been taken which will prevent any such ideas being

In the crowded portions of Greater New York the largest lot is about 200 feet square, that being probably the biggest plot of precious ground obtainable in the downtown district of Gotham. Placing a building 2,000 feet high upon this piece of Mother Earth, the cost would be in the neighborhood of \$60,000,000. It would weigh 516,000 tons, according to estimates which have been furnished the New York board of aldermen by some of the greatest engineering experts in the world.

The tonnage of the American navy.



METROPOLITAN LIFE BUILDING, NEW YORK

OFFICE BUILDING SIXTY-TWO STORIES OR NEARLY A QUARTER OF A MILE HIGH.

ing made of practical use. Desire for their own safety caused Gotham city fathers to squelch the plan and it is considered probable that the tallest building which New York will ever see will not be more than 2,000 feet in height, and perhaps a limit of 1,000 feet may be put upon the height of these gigantic monuments to modern industry.

When you stop to consider the whole proposition the truth begins to dawn. An edifice of 2,000 feet possesses a weight of 516,000 tons, and therefore a structure a mile tall would weigh 4,200,000 tons, and under this terrible strain Manhattan would collapse, scientists tell us.

There have been no architectural plans which will so shift the weight of any building that the strain upon the strata when erected to the height of one mile will allow it to stand in the first-conceived position without shifting. Therefore the reasons for not having a one-mile-high structure are both architectural and geological.

History gives us no other instance where man has been able to test the weight-carrying capacity of Mother Earth, but to-day so far have the ideas of civilization reached that even the globe is under a strain to hold the weight which man has dug out of its bowels and placed upon its face.

New York, like the city of Chicago, is not upon a firm base. Of course, there is the usual strata of thick rock, which in some places is far more substantial than in others, but beyond a weight of 516,000 tons it is impossible to rest additional weight upon the foundations of the city, for that is what the strata is—a foundation.

is about 250,000 tons. Hence you might place two navies the size of the one possessed by America on top of a 200-foot plot of ground and the weight would be the same as that of a 200-foot building. The strain on the earth's crust is a terrible one, and in time it is declared the crust would give way under the fearful pressure. For that reason the aldermen clamped the ban on buildings a mile high.

Then the wind pressure upon large buildings must be taken into consideration by the corps of experts engaged in operations in New York.

On a building 2,000 feet high the wind pressure on each wall is 6,000 tons, which on four walls adds 24,000 tons, and including the roof pressure there is 30,000 tons added weight, which increases the total number of tons on the whole structure to 546,000 tons. This is an enormous weight, and far out of the conception of the ordinary human mind which does not have to deal with such monstrous proportions.

The monstrosity of the entire proposition is made almost impossible by the physical limitations of the earth, strata and general texture of the country in the neighborhood of New York. For that reason experts have figured by complicated processes that the biggest building which New York will construct in the future will not be over 1,000 feet in height.

The work of devising engineering schemes which will lessen the fearful weight exerted upon the earth's crust is now the object of the biggest workers in this line, and millions of dollars would be paid the man or firm that

could bring forth some contrivance or new material to lessen the strain.

What is most needed is some sort of material which is of less weight than plain steel, brick and mortar, but which possesses the same strength, or perhaps more strength than these conventional articles for constructing skyscrapers.

Perhaps the city of Chicago is in more danger than any other big mart of trade in America. The size of buildings is continually growing and just lately limitations have been put upon the ambition of the brotherhood of architects. This action was taken by the city council for the same reason that the city fathers of the city of New York acted.

Chicago is constructed on a strata which, it is declared, is altogether too thin for safety. Chicago's entire loop district was built upon what was a marsh only 75 years ago. Many of the oldest residents still tell the story of a traveler on horseback who visited Chicago's downtown district during the time that the Indians occasionally broke loose. A Chicagoan in a boat noticed a hat apparently floating in an exceptionally wet spot. The Chicagoan needed a hat himself and he rowed to the spot, picked up the hat and was surprised to find the traveler's head beneath. He was up to his eyebrows in marsh.

The scene then shifts to to-day. Big skyscrapers now stand on the spot where the horseman lost his hat. The great marsh dried up somewhat, and where it did not great loads of earth from the western districts of the city were piled in until a solid foundation was given the town.

Scientists also talk of the cracking of great plate-glass windows used in Chicago's loop district stores for exhibition purposes. The great weight which is put upon the somewhat un-solidified portions of the marsh causes an occasional settling of the strained portions of strata and as a result spasmodic periods of alarm beset the downtown business men.

Scientists, however, have assured the public that there is no danger of loss of life, for the settling of the

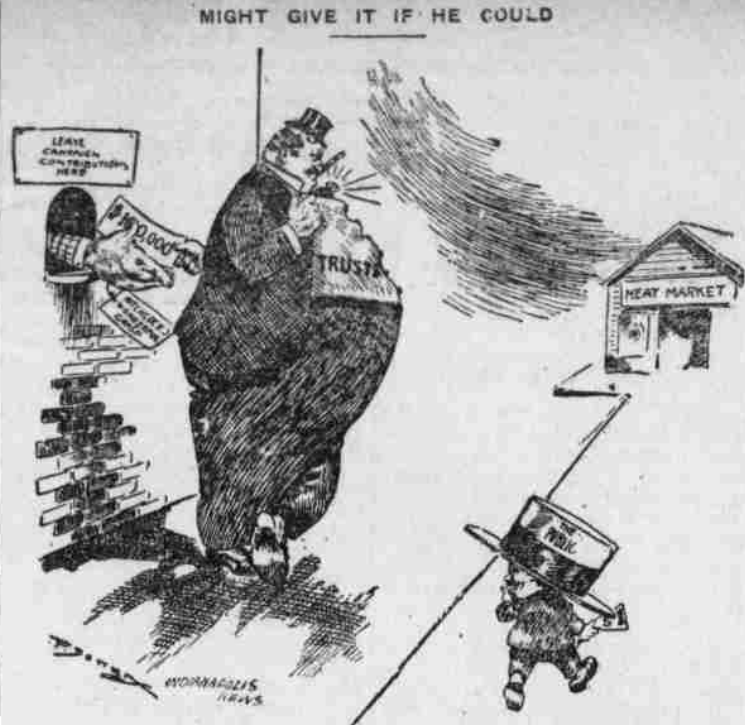
earth takes place usually after the work of the day has been done. For that reason no lives have been lost. Several buildings of flimsy texture have collapsed, but this disaster in all instances has come during the night or early morning, showing that nature has taken a life-saving course in destroying works from the hand of man.

That the foundations of a large city are elastic after a fashion was proven by a notable instance which came to the attention of the Chicago building commission and the police a few years ago. A salvage company was engaged in tearing down a structure adjacent to the Women's Temple. Suddenly one morning when most of the debris from the wrecked structure had been carted away the occupants of offices in the Women's Temple felt the edifice sag to the south—in the direction of the site of the wrecked building.

The entire structure on the south side wrinkled in spots. Cracks, some of them two inches wide, opened, causing the belief that a disaster was imminent. Such was not the case, however, and when a massive stone edifice was erected on the site of the old building the Women's Temple resumed its natural posture.

Experts who were put to work upon the incident in the interest of science determined that the stratum of bedrock, being elastic, had recoiled from the strain which the wrecked building put upon it, therefore causing a movement of the foundations of the Temple. When the newly erected building's weight was put upon the site of the old structure normal conditions were resumed once more.

Dozens of incidents of the same sort have come to the attention of commissioners in large cities, but we find them illustrated nearer home. In erecting the smallest kind of a house or barn there must be allowance for sinking, and if one portion of the handwork sinks and there is not the same falling of another portion large cracks along the walls tell of the trouble. That is the reason that most builders prefer to sink their foundations in the spring of the year, this being a precautionary measure. For



But Mr. Public Needs the Money for More Urgent Demands.

WITH "INTERESTS"

RAILROADS AND CORPORATIONS ARE OUT FOR TAFT.

They Do Not Fear the Ex-War Secretary as They Seemed to Have Feared Roosevelt—Now Very Complacent.

E. H. Harriman has made his contribution to the Taft campaign fund, according to report. The railroads, through their majority owners, are supposed to be throwing such influence as they have to the Republican candidate. The trusts are for Taft. The "interests" are for Taft. The possessors of "privileges" are for Taft. The last one of those smitten by the militant author of "my policies" in that famous message sent to congress last January has turned the other cheek and fawned on the man chosen by Roosevelt as the nominee of the Republican party. Do the strange bedfellowships of politics hold any parallel?

"Corrupt business and corrupt politics," wrote the president in that message, "act and react with ever increasing debasement, one on the other." And he continued thus: "The rebate taker, the franchise trafficker, the manipulator of securities, the purveyor and protector of vice, the blackmailing ward boss, the ballot-box stuffer, the demagogue, the mob leader, the hired bully and man-killer—all alike work at the same web of corruption, and all alike should be abhorred by honest men."

That was given out about the time when the fear that Roosevelt would himself be renominated had caused the planning and partial execution of the "hurt business" campaign. The proud wearers of the epithets in the presidential trade were seeking to capitalize commercial misfortune, and they persisted until the emphasis of repeated denials brought final assurance that Roosevelt was not and would not be a candidate. But the horror and fear of Roosevelt has not been passed along to Taft. He is apparently in the good graces of the rebate takers, franchise traffickers and the manipulators of securities. The "hurt business" campaign has been succeeded by another in which the whole effort is to throw to the party such advantage as may be gained from claiming for it the restoration of the prosperity which it all but destroyed.

Why is it that the particular forces at whom Mr. Roosevelt aimed that awful January broadside are now so complacent? Has the threat to make them honest been withdrawn? Has the fear that their "privileges" will be disturbed been stilled? Why has the rebelled cabal and conspiracy against the White House been dissolved? Has it been found, or has it been promised, that "my policies" were made for public consumption and for political effect, and that Mr. Taft is, after all, not tainted with Rooseveltism? It would be interesting to know.—St. Louis Republic.

"Next Year" Relief.

The president and the standpatents evidently think that public patience is not yet exhausted, that citizens are not yet weary of being promised relief "next year" from intolerable conditions.

It is plain that Republican managers still think campaign contributions from tariff beneficiaries more necessary to Republican success than to make sure of popular approval. Apparently they believe that popular approval will be obtained anyhow, through habit and the old campaign devices.

The Mother of Trusts.

The Chicago Journal thinks that the greatest era of railroad building in the world's history is pending. In most countries of the world and that our steel trust dominates the situation by reason of the tariff; it calls this the mother of trusts. It goes on to say:

"The Standard Oil company crushes competitors by selling below cost of production in one locality and overcharging consumers in another. The same rule is followed by all other trusts that deal in the commodities of everyday life. That is, the tariff schedules that give them monopoly against foreign competition give them also the power to crush home competition."

"No plan of tariff revision will meet the approval of the American people that does not strike down the power to use the tariff for the creation of monopolies in daily necessities. The principle of protection to infant industries, which is the present tariff's theoretical basis, is buttressed by great trusts that extract their annual millions from the pockets of over-charged consumers."

ROOSEVELT EXTRAVAGANCE.

Appropriation of Present Administration Greater than in Civil War.

Official figures compiled by the clerks of the house and senate committees on appropriations show that expenditures aggregating \$1,008,397,543.56 were authorized at the last session of congress. These are the heaviest appropriations ever made in time of peace.

When the country was astonished at the spectacle of a billion dollar congress, Speaker Reed could offer no excuse except a plea that this had become a billion dollar country. But under the Roosevelt regime we have attained the two billion dollar congress, which appropriates a thousand millions at each annual session. The appropriation during the last four years of Rooseveltism have mounted up to \$3,428,000,000, or \$33,900,000 more than during four years of civil war.

In a recent statement to the World, Representative James A. Tawney, Republican chairman of the house committee on appropriations, asserted that "almost 65 per cent of the government's revenues, exclusive of postal receipts, is today being spent to meet the cost of wars past and anticipated." In an article prepared for the anniversary number of the World, Senator Allison, the venerable Republican chairman of the senate committee on appropriations, showed that since 1882 there had come an annual increase of \$51,000,000 in expenditures for the army, an annual increase of \$44,000,000 for the navy and an annual increase of \$30,000,000 for pensions. These three items alone represent a total of \$381,000,000 in the appropriations authorized at the recent session of congress.

This is an annual tax of more than \$4.50 on every man, woman and child in the United States for army, navy and pensions alone. It represents an average of \$22.50 for each family, or more than half the average month's earnings of the American laborer in the period of highest prosperity.—N. Y. World.

POLITICAL POINTERS.

It is up to the Republican managers in Ohio to begin refilling the dinner buckets if they expect to hold on to Taft's state.

The hardest fight of the Democrats in this campaign is to keep the Republicans off their platform.

Shall the people rule? Eventually, Speaker Cannon has already passed the three-score-and-ten mark.

If there is a prosperity parade for campaign purposes this fall Chairman Hitchcock might hire those hundred men who slept in the Morgue chapel, because there was no other refuge for them, to carry his "full dinner pails" with the diseased chicken legs visibly sticking out of the excelsior contents.

The federal official whom Roosevelt has just threatened with dismissal for "pernicious activity" is not in the south, but in New York. He has doubtless been operating at cross purposes with some of Roosevelt's plans in the Empire state.

As we look forward to an \$8,000,000,000 crop, it occurs to us how calamitous it would have been if the Democrats had had their way and revised the tariff last spring, so insuring a complete failure of the crops this fall. It's funny how wheat is heavy and corn tall according to whether the duty on steel rails is 45 or 25 per cent.

Wouldn't it be a real jar if, when the troops have caught the Yellowstone bandit and stripped him of his booty and thrown him into chains and peeled off his disguise, it should be found that it was Treasurer Sheldon applying the usual methods of collecting Republican campaign funds—say, wouldn't it jar you?

But, then, if it was the fear of the Wilson-Gorman tariff law of 1894 that caused the panic of 1893, what was it the fear of that caused the panic of 1907?

Limit "Predatory" Wealth.

We cannot wonder at the confusion of ideas in the minds of some voters when we find all classes of presidential candidates hammering at "predatory" wealth. It is a convenient and popular slogan. But it also needs analysis.

Trusts that prey upon legitimate commerce are more symptoms. The disease itself is grasping for special privileges by the few at the expense of the many. The citadel of this privilege grabbing system is the tariff, with its artificial schedules.

Trouble for Republicans.

Trouble for the Republicans is springing up in all points of the compass. It breaks out violently in Iowa with Gov. Cummins' announcement that he will call a special session of the legislature to provide for the nomination of Allison's successor in the senate by primary election.

Night Sweats & Cough.

E. W. Walton, Condr. S. P. Ry., 717 Van Ness St., San Antonio, Tex., writes: "During the summer and fall of 1902, my annoyance from catarrh reached that stage where it was actual misery and developed alarming symptoms, such as a very deep-seated cough, night sweats, and pains in the head and chest. I experimented with several so-called remedies before I finally decided to take a thorough course of Peruna."

"Two of my friends had gone so far as to inform me that the thing for me to do was to resign my position and seek a higher, more congenial climate. Everyone thought I had consumption and I was not expected to live very long."

"Having procured some Peruna, I decided to give it a thorough test and applied myself assiduously to the task of taking it, as per instructions, in the meantime."

"The effects were soon apparent, all alarming symptoms disappeared and my general health became fully as good as it had ever been in my life."

"I have resorted to the use of Peruna on two or three occasions since that time to cure myself of bad colds."

Dark Subject.

"I'm all in the dark about how these bills are to be paid," said Mr. Hardup to his wife.

"Well, Henry," said she, as she pulled out a colored one and laid it on the pile, "you will be if you don't pay that one, for it's the gas bill."

More Dignified.

"Good night, you precious lamb!" said the mother, with the liberty one sometimes takes, even with one's son, at bedtime.

"Mother," said the small boy beseechingly, "if you must call me something, wouldn't you just as soon call me a billygoat?"—Youth's Companion.

Shower of Sulphur.

Charolles, a small town 30 miles from Macon, in France, has recently been visited by a shower of sulphur. The roofs, gardens, fields, vineyards, rivers and ponds were covered with a yellow dust, and for some time the peasants in the fields were troubled by a sulphurous biting odor which made breathing difficult.

A Revised Version.

A poet who has been known to tell the truth recounts this story of his little daughter:

Her mother overheard her expounding the origin of the sex to her family of dolls.

"You see, children," she said, "Adam was a man all alone and was very lonely, so God put him to sleep, took his brains out and made a nice lady of them."—Illustrated Bits.

It Came Off.

The fair barber was in the greatest danger when the heroic rescuer seized her by the hair. It came off. Puffs and coils and waves and rats it strewn the shuddering sea.

For a moment the rescuer was dazed.

Then he grasped the tiny knob of real hair that remained on the lady's head and drew her into shallow water. Did she thank him for saving her life?

She didn't.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Marine Insurance.

Marine insurance is the oldest kind of modern insurance. Its principles were first employed in the fourteenth century by the merchants of Barcelona, in Spain, when that city was the capital of the kingdom of Catalonia and when its hardy mariners were second to none in the world.

About the same time, and also at Barcelona, the famous code of maritime laws known as the "consulate del mar" was promulgated, which is the foundation of the present shipping laws of every country.

The Sign of Power.

It is the greatest manifestation of power to be calm. It is easy to be active. Let the reins go, and the horses will drag you down. Anyone can do that; but he who can stop the plunging horses is the strong man. Which requires the greater strength—letting go, or restraining? The calm man is not the man who is dull. You must not mistake calmness for dullness or laziness. . . . Activity is the manifestation of the lower strength, calmness of the superior strength.—Swami Vivekananda.

"THE PALE GIRL."

Did Not Know Coffee Was the Cause.

In cold weather some people think a cup of hot coffee good to help keep warm. So it is—for a short time but the drug—caffeine—acts on the heart to weaken the circulation and the reaction is to cause more chilliness.

There is a hot wholesome drink which a Dak. girl found after a time, makes the blood warm and the heart strong.

She says: "Having lived for five years in N. Dak., I have used considerable coffee owing to the cold climate. As a result I had a dull headache regularly, suffered from indigestion, and had no 'life' in me."

"I was known as 'the pale girl' and people thought I was just weakly. After a time I had heart trouble and became very nervous, never knew what it was to be real well. Took medicine but it never seemed to do any good."

"Since being married my husband and I both have thought coffee was harming us and we would quit, only to begin again, although we felt it was the same as poison to us."

"Then we got some Postum. Well, the effect was really wonderful. My complexion is clear now, headache gone, and I have a great deal of energy I had never known while drinking coffee."

"I haven't been troubled with indigestion since using Postum, am not nervous, and need no medicine. We have a little girl and boy who both love Postum and thrive on it and Grape-Nuts."

There's a Reason.

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read, "The Road to Wellville," in pks.

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.